

# FACT SHEET ON AIR FORCE PLAN FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

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- During a four-star summit in the Fall of 2003, senior leaders discussed importance of determining the extent of incidence of sexual assault present in the Air Force, in part due to problems identified at USAFA
- AF conducted a service-wide assessment in 2004 to review the Air Force's sexual assault prevention and response capabilities and identify recommendations for improvements
- Report captured 6 major areas to address: realities of sexual assault; need for strong leadership commitment and coherent/integrated policy; improved education/training; improved response; improved reporting by victims; and challenges related to AEF and deployed areas.
- AF engaged leading subject matter experts to assist in understanding the nature and prevalence of the problem and to assist in developing approaches for prevention and response
  - Fact Sheet – National Statistics on Sexual Assault attached
- 5 Major program initiatives developed from report:
  - **Policy and Leadership**: Strong statement from senior leaders that sexual assault is criminal behavior that conflicts with our Core Values and will not be tolerated. Prevention efforts center on reinforcement of the Core Values in behaviors expected of Airmen. Core Values built on Respect for self, our Wingman (every person in the AF is our Wingman) and our institution.
    - Day-to-day responsibility for policy implementation at base level rests with Vice Wing Commanders
  - **Prevention, Education and Training**: Approach is to acknowledge problem, understand it and attack it through reinforcement of Air Force Core Values
    - Initial outreach and awareness training for Airmen at all levels through video supported training with key messages from leaders (video attached)
    - Multi-tiered Training Approach throughout all levels of professional military education (PME).
      - Air Education & Training Command (AETC) developing curriculum beginning with accessions training and throughout every level of PME
  - **Improved Response**: Air Force created full time Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) to assist senior leadership with prevention of and response to incidence of sexual assault
    - Dedicated manpower includes 1 SARC at each base with pop. > 1,000 and available at deployed locations
    - Air Force SARC at headquarters USAF and Program Manager at each Major Command
    - Additional program position at AETC Tech Training Centers for transient student population
      - SARCs received 40 hours of training (300+ trained)

- Volunteer Victim Advocates (Mil & AF civilians) at each base, receive 50 hours of training
  - **Improved Reporting:** On 14 June 2005, implemented 2 avenues for reporting sexual assault as prescribed by DOD.
    - **Restricted (Confidential):** For Active duty members, allows victim time (without triggering investigation) to make informed decision
      - Empowers victim to seek information and support (encouraged to do forensic exam)
      - Provides immediate & continuing care (assignment of victim advocate)
      - Commander receives very general info without victim identification
      - We believe restricted reporting will encourage victims to seek support, evaluate their options, and may ultimately result in more unrestricted reports
    - **Unrestricted:** Victim reports through normal command channels, receives a victim advocate. Investigation, command and legal response triggered.
  - **Addresses AEF/deployed challenges:** Provides trained military SARC's and Victim Advocates within the deployed environment
- Way ahead:
  - Implement DoD directives to be published early Fall
  - Continue prevention efforts through education, training and using various media
  - Establish relationships and agreements with local community service providers and national organizations
  - Additional training for first responders (medical, judge advocates, investigators, chaplains, etc)
  - Monitor and improve - institutionalize

Attach: Fact Sheet – National Statistics on Sexual Assault